

What is claimed is:

CLAIMS

1. An apparatus, comprising:
 - 5 an integrated circuit capable of communicating with at least a first storage device and a second storage device, said integrated circuit comprising copy manager circuitry, said copy manager circuitry capable of generating one or more copy commands to copy data from said first storage device to said second storage device via said expander device.
2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein:
 - 10 said integrated circuit capable of receiving an extended copy command, and in response to said extended copy command, said copy manager circuitry generating one or more copy commands to copy data from said first storage device to said second storage device via said integrated circuit.
3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein:
 - 15 said integrated circuit comprising a virtual end device, said copy manager comprised in said virtual end device.
4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein:
 - said first storage device comprises a disk device, and said second storage device comprises a tape device.
- 20 5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein:
 - said integrated circuit comprised in an expander device, said expander device being coupled to said first storage device and said second storage device.
6. A method, comprising:

generating, by copy manager circuitry comprised in an integrated circuit, one or more copy commands to copy data from a first mass storage device to a second mass storage device via said integrated circuit.

7. The method of claim 6, further comprising:

5 receiving an extended copy command, and in response to said extended copy command, generating, by said copy manager circuitry, one or more copy commands to copy data from one said first mass storage device to said second mass storage device via said expander device.

8. The method of claim 6, further comprising:

10 defining said copy manager circuitry in a virtual end device.

9. The method of claim 6, wherein:

said first mass storage device comprises a disk device, said second mass storage device comprises a tape device.

10. The method of claim 6, wherein:

15 said integrated circuit comprised in an expander device, said expander device being coupled to said first storage device and said second storage device.

11. A system, comprising:

a circuit card comprising an integrated circuit capable of communicating in accordance with a plurality of different communication protocols, the circuit card being
20 capable of being coupled to a bus, and an expander device capable of communicating with said circuit card and with at least a first storage device and a second storage device, said expander device comprising copy manager circuitry, said copy manager circuitry

capable of generating one or more copy commands to copy data from said first storage device to said second storage device via said expander device.

12. The system of claim 11, wherein:

5 said expander device capable of receiving an extended copy command, and in response to said extended copy command, said copy manager circuitry generating one or more copy commands to copy data from said first storage device to said second storage device via said expander device.

13. The system of claim 12, wherein:

10 said extended copy command being transmitted by said circuit card to said expander device.

14. The system of claim 11, wherein:

 said expander device comprising a virtual end device, said copy manager comprised in said virtual end device.

15. The system of claim 11, wherein:

15 said first storage device comprises a disk device, and said second storage device comprises a tape device.

16. An article comprising:

 a storage medium having stored thereon instructions that when executed by a machine result in the following operations:

20 generating, by copy manager circuitry comprised in an integrated circuit, one or more copy commands to copy data from a first mass storage device to a second mass storage device via said integrated circuit.

17. The article of claim 16, further comprising the following operations:

receiving an extended copy command, and in response to said extended copy command, generating, by said copy manager circuitry, one or more copy commands to copy data from one said first mass storage device to said second mass storage device via said integrated circuit.

5 18. The article of claim 16, further comprising the following operations:

defining said copy manager circuitry in a virtual end device comprised in said integrated circuit.

19. The article of claim 16, wherein:

said first storage device comprises a disk device, and said second storage device
10 comprises a tape device.